

NEW BOOKS.

The First D'Artagnan.

The interest shown of late years in Alexander Dumas's romances in this country and England, which has manifested itself in many translations and "complete" editions, accounts probably for the appearance of the "Memoirs of Monsieur d'Artagnan" by Courtly de Sandras, translated in three volumes by Ralph Nevill (Little, Brown & Company). The great French romancer was as free in making use of earlier materials as the Elizabethan dramatists were in borrowing from the Italian story tellers. He lifted the earlier romances of his own, and those who regard this as plagiarism will think the case against him stronger than it is by a comparison of the translations. In this process so much is lost that the peculiar charm and distinction of Dumas's French, which makes the story his own, is lost.

The "Memoirs" are as much of a romance as the "Trois Mousquetaires" with its sequel. We all know that there was a real d'Artagnan and that he was Louis XIV's Captain-Lieutenant of Musketeers. He had nothing to do with the memoirs, which were made up by Courtly de Sandras, an adventurer and pamphleteer and prolific writer of romances of the end of Louis's reign. There is enough historical fact mixed with fiction to give both an air of verisimilitude. The incidents are often broad and coarse, which was possible in a book printed surreptitiously outside of France, but Dumas's modifications were due more to the change in social manners than two centuries had made than to any fear of censorship.

As a romance the "Memoirs" are very entertaining. It is surprising that they have never been translated into English before, for this, we are told, is the first English translation. Still, the French original is not particularly easy to get, and respectable translations of Dumas do not date many years back. There was plenty of gossip for the author to weave into his narrative, he lived at the time, he saw a good deal of court people and heard more, and his story, perhaps, presents a more vivid view of Louis XIV's time than more accurate and trustworthy narratives do.

The three volumes are very handsomely printed at the University Press, Cambridge; the illustrations are all historical portraits selected with taste. The book will be welcome to Dumas enthusiasts and may be read with pleasure by all.

John Phenix Here Again.

There were American humorists in the days before Artemus Ward and the Civil War whom elderly people remember with enjoyment, though to this generation they are perhaps more half-forgotten names. What has become of Sam Slick, and who remembers John Phenix? Dialect was not so complicated in those days and not so copious, and funniness did not turn entirely on bad spelling. The opportunity to compare ante-bellum wit with that of the modern decadents, without hunting through dusty shelves in old libraries, is afforded by the republication of some of John Phenix's pieces in "Phoenician" (Appletons).

The old stories read well. After half a century they are just as funny as they were when Franklin Pierce was President, though it may startle those addicted to jocular literature to find Lieut. Derby using good English. Perhaps it is that which makes them old-fashioned, and yet had Lieut. Derby lived he would be only 80 years old now, for he was but 38 when he died in the first year of the war. How far back it seems!

Mr. John Kendrick Bange supplies an introduction with a sketch of the author, in which he is reminiscent and makes the curious admission: "Had Lieut. George H. Derby been a professional fun-maker, the production of such a work as 'Phoenician' might possibly have proved a solemn task and a wearisome effort." Mr. Bange's readers may think that this explains many things. Mr. E. W. Kemble has made some illustrations which are often funny, but are always out of place. How discordant they are can be seen in comparing them with the original pictures of "Phenix's Pictorial," which could not be left out, the meeting of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe with the Duchess of Sutherland, and George Washington's oysters. The few old woodcuts are a part of the book, and modern drawings and methods of reproduction are out of place. It is good to have an American classic brought into the reach of all. The grandchildren can now laugh at the stories their grandfathers laughed at, and may be surprised to meet some old acquaintances among them.

Travel by Magic Lantern.

The spread of magic lantern lectures in this country in the last twenty years is an interesting phase of social change. The intrusion of pictures was viewed askance by the old lyceum audiences trained to mental concentration by Mr. Emerson and John B. Gough and Dr. John Lord, and to be tolerated only with scientific subjects, such as the wonders of the microscope. Views of foreign lands cast upon the screen were seen with pleasure, and therefore could not be quite right. Still, the stereoscopic lectures worked their way into the lyceum programmes with the bellers and other musical entertainments and pushed pure intellectuality into the background. In time bold innovators instituted courses made up entirely of picture lanterns and made them pay. Now the magic lantern has invaded the colleges, so that at Harvard the number of students of Greek and Latin is kept up in large part by stereoscopic lectures.

The lectures have grown into a prosperous industry and recognized form of amusement. In the projection of the pictures on the screen every resource of science and art has been employed, and the lecturers in their hunt for novelty have developed taste in the selection of views and great skill in the use of the camera. The pictures are the entertainment, and in his melodramatic explanatory accompaniment the soft-voiced lecturer takes care never to rise above the level of his audience. There are doubtless higher forms of intellectual enjoyment than listening to such lectures, but they certainly provide innocent amusement to many people who want to be entertained without too much exertion on their part, they give to many, perhaps, as much knowledge of foreign parts as they could acquire by visiting the spot; they recall to those who have travelled pleasant memories of the things they have seen, and often the pictures in themselves are an artistic treat.

Of late years some well known lecturers have taken to publishing their lectures with illustrations from their photographs. Such is the series of books before us: "The Burton Holmes Lectures" (The Little, Brown Company, Battle Creek, Mich.). Ten volumes, containing thirty lectures, profusely illustrated from excellent photographs, many of which are of uncommon places. There are colored pictures besides. While the text is not particularly instructive, it reads smoothly and pleasantly, and will enable people to recall in their homes the lectures they have attended.

Mr. Elias Burton Holmes, who has stepped into the shoes of Mr. John L. Stoddard, in

McClure's

FOR NOVEMBER

The Trusts' New Tool,
the Labor Boss

By R. S. BAKER

Sam Parks and the Fuller Construction Company in a new light. An amazing story told with the vigor and fairness that distinguish all of Mr. Baker's labor articles.

Two other great articles—Lincoln Steffens on New York politics and "The Wonders of Radium"—and six delightful short stories make the November McClure's a marvel at 10 cents.

ALL NEWSTANDS. 10 CENTS.

Magazine

These ten volumes cover Morocco, Algeria and southern Spain, Russia, Greece and the Olympic Games, Paris and the Exposition, Oberammergau, and other parts of Europe; the Siberian railroad, China, Korea, Japan, the Philippines and Hawaii, and the Yellowstone and other Pacific Coast sights.

No More Light on South America.

No book could be more welcome than an adequate history in reasonable compass of the South American republics. We ought to know so much about them and know so little, and can find small help in anything written in English and not much more in foreign tongues. We opened Mr. Thomas C. Dawson's "The South American Republics" (G. P. Putnam's Sons), the first part of which deals with Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil, with much hope, the more so because Mr. Dawson had unusual opportunities to write the book we need, from having been secretary of the United States Legation to Brazil.

We are disappointed, however. Mr. Dawson prefers to deal with generalities and seems incapable of sticking to definite facts. Any history of South America which does not begin with the revolutionary movement in the north that freed the colonies from Spain labors under a disadvantage. The discoveries and colonizations, too, are dealt with more easily by beginning at the beginning. That might have been overlooked, however, had the author really written complete monographs on each modern republic. He has not done that, and the result is confusion, which is not improved by the use of English that lacks distinction and, sometimes, grammatical accuracy. We must still turn to encyclopedias for South American scraps.

The Seleucus and Antiochus Family.

There is much to discourage an attempt to write a history of the Seleucid dynasty. Mr. Edwin Robert Bevan, M. A., informs us in his preface to his two volumes of "The House of Seleucus" (Edward Arnold), and there is still more to discourage the reviewer. It is a conscientious effort, in the style of doctor dissertations, with much study of the sources, no imagination and no particular style. Painful as it is to reconstruct history from coins, from inscriptions and from the accounts of hostile writers, it should be presented in a form that may interest the reader, or, we will not say not at all, but, at any rate, in a condensed form, embodying the author's own discoveries and omitting the padding from other works. As it is, the two volumes may fill up a gap in the shelves of any historical library arranged according to geography.

PUBLICATIONS.

On Every News-stand, 35 cents, \$4.00 a Year.

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A delightful book of reminiscence of Nathaniel Hawthorne. The author's son writes in an intimate, personal manner that is charming. Many details are related by him which have never been available to any other writer, including anecdotes of men, women and places.

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Illustrated.

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By REGINALD WRIGHT KAUFFMAN and EDWARD CHILDS CARPENTER

The New Story of American Political Life

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D. APPLETON AND COMPANY, Publishers, NEW YORK

New Catholic Church for The Bronx

Plans have been filed for a new church, 70 feet front and 110 feet deep, to be built at College Avenue and 145th Street, in The Bronx, for the congregation of St. Rita's Roman Catholic Church, now worshipping in Courtlandt Avenue. The new edifice is to be of ornamental brick, and will cost \$20,000.

For the congregation of St. Rita's Roman Catholic Church, now worshipping in Courtlandt Avenue. The new edifice is to be of ornamental brick, and will cost \$20,000.

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A HONEYMOON DOWN THE BAY.

It Only Lasted an Afternoon, but It Was a Merry Cruise Till the Waves Arose.

A most remarkable honeymoon followed the equally remarkable wedding last week of Toby Bon Peterson, reputed descendant of a Polish king who lived three hundred years ago, to Miss Sophie Fischer, daughter of the Governor of Iceland, who arrived in Brooklyn three weeks ago from the icy north after a separation of fifteen years from her lover. The honeymoon consisted of a trip down the bay and back on the Protestant Episcopal missionary yacht Sentinel, lasting one afternoon.

It was important to forego the custom of having a minister tie the knot, for the bride party intended having a rousing time on the yacht, such as a minister might not care to participate in. So the Rev. A. R. Mansfield, chaplain of the yacht, who should have married the young couple, was not informed of the important event. Counsel Franklin Grier of the Seamen's branch of the Legation Society, who employs Mr. Peterson as a private detective, fulfilled the functions of the minister at the last moment at his office, 1 State street, by certifying to the marriage.

The party was told that the Sentinel was moored at Pier 1, East River, and the suggestion was made that the wedding guests seize the craft and make for the open sea on her. Herr von Eithian, a representative of the Danish Embassy—for Peterson's father was once Consul at Savannah—ran off to purchase champagne and other good things, and it was done.

Such sights as along the bay the leucard spouse never saw. The Statue of Liberty seemed to cry out to the wedding party to have a good time. They floated every vessel they passed and held aloft the flag, and to every sailor who shouted his "Good luck to ye." The very guns of the forts looked ready to belch forth congratulations.

Between the champagne and the rocking of the yacht—for the day was rough—as soon as the blue of the ocean was reached Mr. Peterson, who was looking rather longingly to shore, suggested that the boat turn back. As Mr. Peterson explained two days after, on returning to the office, the salt air had a remarkably sleepy effect.

The party ended the wedding trip just as the minister arrived at the pier to take the yacht on his daily visitation cruise.

COST OF SPECS GOING UP.

Materials Cost More and Now the Lens Grinders Are Striking for More Pay.

The lens grinders employed by the opticians in this city have demanded an increase of pay and are organizing a new labor union to get it. The grinders now get \$18 a week. They ask for \$21. Scores of them in Brooklyn and Manhattan shops have already gone on strike on their own hook without waiting for their union to complete its organization.

That's only part of the trouble of the opticians. They have received notice that on Nov. 1 the wholesale price of materials will be advanced.

"So it is very likely," said an optician yesterday, "that the man who breaks or loses his specs will have to pay 75 cents for a lens that now costs him half a dollar."

REED & BARTON

Silversmiths

Sterling Silver takes precedence for Weddings. Our productions are distinguished for workmanship, design and weight.

41 UNION SQ. AND 6 MAIDEN LANE

PUBLICATIONS.

ON ALL NEWS STANDS TO-DAY
In THE WORLD'S WORK for November is published the first of a series of articles on our inadequate Post-office, which shows its opportunities to serve the people, its shortcomings and the reasons for them.

OTHER LIVE SUBJECTS IN THIS NUMBER ARE:

"What the Macedonian Trouble Is," with extraordinary pictures. Louise Parker Richards. "His Majesty Jekyll and Hyde." (The Sultan.) Henry Thomson.

"John S. Sargent." 16 superb full page illustrations. Charles H. Caffin. "A personal Sketch of Mr. Sargent." Evan Mills.

"The Corn Growers." Illustrated from the real. T. N. Carver. "The Country Merchant Comes to Town." Isaac F. Marcossan.

OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE: The Labor Union Conquest of the United States, by William Z. Ripley.

The World's Work is a live magazine for active-minded men and women. Order from your newsdealer. (25 cents; \$3.00 a year.)

DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & COMPANY, Publishers, New York

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REMINISCENCES of the CIVIL WAR

By General JOHN B. GORDON

From the Omaha (Neb.) Bee:

"His abounding good will to all sections of the country unite in giving a personal character to this volume which is to be found in few of the records of the civil war."

From the New York MAIL AND EXPRESS:

"He writes as an American for Americans, North and South; he notes the underlying feelings of brotherhood, which grew in strength in the combatants as the war progressed; he is as anxious to remember and celebrate Northern valor and chivalry as those of the South. Indeed, his book is a good example of the very fairness, the very freedom from bias which he places first among the attributes which the future historian of the irrepressible conflict must possess."

With portraits. 8vo, \$3.00 net (postage 23 cents).

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A Bright, Breezy Novel of the New Navy. Published To-day.

By EDITH E. WOOD The Spirit of the Service

It is full of sparkling dialogue and clear-cut pictures of the conditions and standards of a life so distinct from civilian, commercial atmosphere as to carry with it all the fascination of a new country. The scene opens in the Navy Yard about ten years ago and its spirited action closes soon after the Battle of Manila Bay.

Illustrated by RUFUS F. ZOGBAUM. Cloth, \$1.50.

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